

FIGHT

VOL. 1 No. 10
AUGUST 1934
5¢
AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM
20 YEARS AFTER



General Pershing inspecting a machine gun platoon in France during the World War.

August 4, 1914. The world was involved in the madness of the world, in a slaughter match. Killings, maiming, destroying. Parents, orphans, widows. The workers, farmers, clerks, teachers, engineers, preoccupied by the guns, ships, schools, and all the other agencies of war, controlled and influenced by the madness of the world were turned into the trenches to fight for what?

It is interesting to note that in the U. S. A. we were told to fight for the "four big things" of the world: for the machinery, for the better, for the land, for the sea, and for the government of the world made the World War and the "four big things" that followed.

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OFFICER'S ROW

By JOSEPHINE GARWOOD

WHEN army officers get home sick for the days of their youth they play the First Four song on the records. I remember hearing it in the living-room of the commandant of a post and listening to the words, "The Corps... the Corps." Meanwhile I stared at an American eagle woven into a rug on the floor. The first guard helped me, for it indicated that the master had greater real prestige than an officer who had only won his commission during the World War. An officer's wife once remarked to me, "Thank you, I have a lot to live down. He came from the ranks."

I mention this very because for me it is the saddest life in those who, and two-family veterans that usually have the parade ground—officer's row. What goes on in this, often village, that is here especially suited from American life?

Class Lines

When I was fifteen my father had a job supervising the "Four White Tie Lovers" schools that were founded on army posts to teach English to soldiers who returned their officers by not understanding orders. For ten years, until the Harding administration closed them, the Harding administration closed them.

There is the life of the officer's social life. In domestic life, usually they are in petty conflicts that, in the United States, of a post, become major conflicts. Here is an example, that kept many troops happy for weeks.

The general's wife was a nervous old lady who interrupted the whole post. One day a lieutenant bought a puppy that barked and whined all right long. The general's wife complained to the general, who informed the

young officer that he must keep his dog quiet or shoot him. For several nights the lieutenant sat up sleepless, vainly trying to keep the dog quiet. To no avail. He was then ordered by the general to kill the dog, and shooting it.

As the general found it difficult to keep his wife amused, every young officer was carefully ordered to play cards with her. When my father was in the line he was quickly warned to leave, for he must always let the lady win, and so she got very high stakes, it was terribly expensive.

Lower down in the scale come the non-commissioned officers, who are not allowed to take part in the social life of the higher ranks. A handsome sergeant in the post I have been describing, following a custom often practiced by commissioned officers, married a very wealthy woman—in fact, a millionaire. Here was a problem. The wife arrived with many servants and installed herself at the post with a tremendous splash. Would money prevail over the "code"? The ranks welcomed a little but finally had firm. No one called on the new money, and she lived in solitary splendor.

Are Soldiers Cattle?

As for the soldiers they are regarded as mere domestic animals, herded into barracks and treated as such. Very much as Negroes are treated by the rich whites in the south. No member of an officer's family ever looks at them as anything but a servant. Making yourself personally useful to the officers is the chief reason of promotion for the latter. On one post there was a fine chap, a Greek, who was a skilled cabinet maker. He built beautiful cabinets for the colonel, who kept him on hand that he had to chance to sell his work to other officers. Showing his pieces to his friends, he seemed proud to leave. "Well, after all, the fellow got. We'll keep producing him."

At one place the soldiers did not drink but

devoted all their energy to serving the officers. Every member of the privileged caste had a soldier devoted to his work, and, if he had children, another to act as nursemaid. For this work they received no pay whatever.

On every post the soldiers were the lazier, hungrier and in the kitchen, wash the floors, and in general are treated like slaves. If any disagree with the soldier is always wrong. "I never consider that a soldier's word has any value," a major once told me.

At that time the officers considered themselves married because Washington had instituted a system of promotion which involved physical fitness. They therefore felt obliged to indulge in various forms of sport, while the soldiers kept fit by doing their hard manual labor. For instance, one year the soldiers worked for months building a huge swimming pool. After this difficult task was accomplished they were only allowed to use it for a few hours a week, and then only very early in the morning when the officers would still be sleeping. The rest of the time the pool was filled with fooling officers, trying to reduce their waist lines by fancy diving.

"WAR BABIES"

By HARRY ROSS

WAR BABIES? It's been applied by operators in the money market of Wall Street to stocks that grow fat on War Stocks, explosives, etc., airplanes, etc., are considered by the boys who make fortunes trading stocks and bonds in the largest legal gambling den in the world—the New York Stock Exchange.

As gamblers and punters, the speculators have no illusions about War. They know that War is not waged to save democracy or to find such an ethical object as the Italy trial. They also know that War is not fought to save the world from being plunged by munitions manufacturers. True, they realize that munitions make money for War, but as the boys in Wall Street, and the bond market, and the sugar trust, and the "Red" speculators, etc.

Capitalism and Imperialism

For these gamblers, realize that they are not that war is staged by the imperialists nations for the express purpose of generating colonies and smaller nations so that they may serve as added outlets for the sale of surplus goods, and also for the purpose of destroying surplus commodities—cotton, wheat, steel, etc.

A clearer picture of this may be gained from the financial section of "The New York Times" during the World War. Its own sections and editorials were highly inclined to put it mildly, but if one turns to the financial section a different picture of the reasons for War may be gained.

What do you suppose happened on the Stock Exchange when all hope of peace disappeared in 1914? You're right—stocks advanced. Was there talk of peace? Stocks broke. What do you think happened in the Stock Market when led by the Bolsheviks, the workers, peasants and soldiers carried Russia from the ruling class and peace was in the heart of every soldier on the Eastern Front? Right again—there was a panic on the Big Board.

A day after War was declared in August, 1914, the Stock Exchange was forced to close.

SONGS! SONGS!

THIS IS the last call for the anti-War and anti-Fascist song contest, announced in the first issue of FIGHT. The judges of the contest are: Dean Colquhoun, Charles Dwyer, and the editors of FIGHT. The prize is a model ship taken to the SECOND U. S. CONGRESS AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM, held in Chicago, September 22-24, 1934.

RECIPE

1. All songs, words, and music must be original and based mainly on American conditions in relation to War and Fascism.

2. Simple language.

3. Quotations.

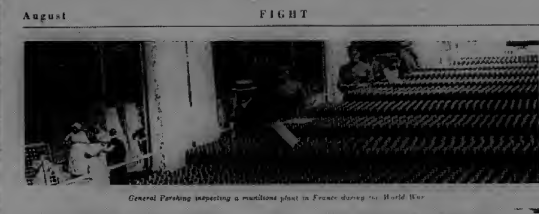
4. Short story refills, if possible, with FIGHT AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM as the theme.

5. Music must be within comfortable singing range—suitable for high and low voices.

6. Avoid difficult intervals.

7. Words and music must reach every SONG CONTEST, via FIGHT, 112 East 19th Street, New York City, by August 23rd.

8. The judges reserve the right to cancel contest if material received is not found suitable.



General Pershing inspecting a machine gun platoon in France during the World War.

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COST OF WORLD WAR

By HARRY ROSS

DEAD:

AMERICAN SOLDIERS: 100,000
ENEMY SOLDIERS: 100,000
CIVILIAN DEATHS: 100,000
TOTAL: 300,000

ORPHANED:

AMERICAN ORPHANS: 1,000,000
ENEMY ORPHANS: 1,000,000
TOTAL: 2,000,000

WIDOWED:

AMERICAN WIDOWS: 1,000,000
ENEMY WIDOWS: 1,000,000
TOTAL: 2,000,000

WAR BILLS:

AMERICAN WAR BILLS: 100,000,000,000
ENEMY WAR BILLS: 100,000,000,000
TOTAL: 200,000,000,000

PROPERTY LOSSES:

AMERICAN PROPERTY LOSSES: 100,000,000,000
ENEMY PROPERTY LOSSES: 100,000,000,000
TOTAL: 200,000,000,000

LOSS IN PRODUCTION:

AMERICAN LOSS IN PRODUCTION: 100,000,000,000
ENEMY LOSS IN PRODUCTION: 100,000,000,000
TOTAL: 200,000,000,000

VALUE OF LIVES:

AMERICAN VALUE OF LIVES: 100,000,000,000
ENEMY VALUE OF LIVES: 100,000,000,000
TOTAL: 200,000,000,000

Grand Total:

AMERICAN GRAND TOTAL: 1,000,000,000,000
ENEMY GRAND TOTAL: 1,000,000,000,000
TOTAL: 2,000,000,000,000

WAR and TEACHERS

By LEROY E. BOWMAN

Child Development Institute, Teachers College, Columbia University

It is more than a coincidence that teachers' salaries are reduced, many teachers are dismissed, and the whole educational scheme of a nation is crippled during a War, or as is more clearly evident in this country, at the mere threat of War. The underlying reason is that teaching or schooling is by the very nature fundamentally opposed to War. The two cannot live together in the same relationship.

According to the desires of a civilized people to give to its developing citizens the culture of the world and the chance to grow into an ever broadening circle of human relationships. It is a process primarily and in any kind sense, a process, altogether of individualism. It belongs to an era in which essentially men are growing more and more interdependent, in which the material things we have and the institutions we create, must be based on the theory and practice of working together.

War is an anachronism in a time like this, a relic of barbarism. It is a justification means of survival for itself and its role in a world age when men were motivated by the things of nature they could take directly. To exist, they needed the fighting off of things of nature that would take the food out of their hands. Yet individuals or even civilizations do not survive today requires that we work together in peace and distribute all the things we need.

Agency of Imperialism

War is a "civilized" institution in a political type of relationship between people. Hence, as an approach the institutions which are a feature of later development, such as schools, are emasculated or perverted. The perversion must be a twisting of the institution from the purpose for which it is required to one fitting the primitive nature of War. So the school is made an agency of imperialism at the threat of War, since preparation on an individual level of group action devoid of individual thinking, characterizes the total state of social evolution.

The greatest need is to realize what the function of the school is and to create teachers' efforts within the class room to perform that function. Outside the class room it dwells on teachers in relation to one thing: their primary function in society is related to them, not a primitive and anachronistic task better not performed—such as the preparation of War, of War heroes, of warlike attitudes and warlike passions. The idealization of War has persisted in history as taught in schools, as



Two Soviet students in uniform just before the start of their term. (L.H.T.) Under. (Harris Mowbray)

will be in the preparation of ethics and government, because there is a natural lag of people's attitude behind the demands of a changing world. Men and women whose attitudes and traditions are those of before do not adapt to the new world quickly enough to keep the things that give to peace in the only way of social survival.

It is at the point of this argument that the school becomes of the very greatest importance. For it is necessary that a nation develop through the schools these attitudes and skills in its future citizens that will serve to further national unity and peace and the very life of the country. Hence there is an absolute need at the present time that the schools be used to educate citizens into habits of cooperation and into determination for peace. The school is essentially, logically, necessarily the instrument of socialization, of growing personality, of a molding in abstraction of each young mind into relationship with all other human beings. Anything short of this process is not education in a modern world.

Classed Schools

War, threat of War, more dwelling on past Wars, threat of the growth of the world, the rise of social development, and the logical result, the opposite kind of utilization from those which will be required in social life. It is not without reason to look at the vast number of schools closed in some of the states and conclude that schools will reach the limits of cooperation and the cooperative community or there will be no schools.

If War is reversion to the primitive habit ways of dealing with human beings, Education will be described as an effort to prevent

any socialization. It is an effort to "freeze" the classes in their present relative positions. The effect of it on schools is much the same as War; it wrecks out the whole purpose of education when it abolishes the hope and urge of growth into a more standard individual and state.

Fight War and Fascism

It is only a fight for self preservation that will lead the teacher openly or covertly to fight War and Fascism and anything or anybody connected with them. It would be only self-preservation that ought to lead the state to require of teachers that they inculcate ideals of peace and practical habits of the widest conceivable cooperation.

U.S. WAR BUDGET 1934

THE FOLLOWING table is taken from the Secretary of the Treasury on the state of the budget for the fiscal year. This report speaks rather than words and illustrates how an imperialist government spends more than two billion dollars a year for the killing of workers and farmers—while millions go hungry and homeless, without schools, and lacking all the things that make up life itself.

War Budget

War Department	\$50,000,000.00
Navy Department	37,000,000.00
Interest Public Debt	73,000,000.00
Stimulus and Expenses	85,773,000.00
Army and Navy Personnel	310,270,000.00
Military and Naval Expenses	120,000,000.00
Civil Service Retirement and Disability	29,500,000.00
Government Life Insurance Fund	70,000,000.00
Interest Service Certificate	20,000,000.00
Hospital, Research, etc.	1,885,000.00
All other	3,000,000.00
Total	\$2,588,252,000.00

U.S. Times, Feb. 7, 1934.

From the Times, Feb. 7, 1934.

RAILROAD LABOR

By LEN DE CAUX

Washington Correspondent, Red Star

Mr. Len De Caux was formerly Assistant Editor of the *Lancashire Express* and Journal.

"ARE THE railroad Brotherhoods opposed to War?"

"We must certainly say, and we do everything we could to prevent another one." "Would you call a strike to prevent the shipment of munitions?" "We couldn't do that, of course, that would be a violation of our contracts." The actual interview of a former student with a Grand Lodge official of one of the transportation Brotherhoods rather puzzled the student, but it fairly accurately reflects the attitude of leaders of a labor group that could do more than others to spare plans for the next War.

Rank and File against War

Anti-War sentiment is stronger and deeper among American railroad men than among any other group, although opposition of sentiment runs as a thread through railroad jobs have been almost cut in half, has raised the age level of these still holding jobs to the point where it would be their own rather than themselves who would be mobilized for cannon fodder. The railroad brotherhoods, with members of the vague platform of political movements in which the organized railroads have played a leading part to make Anti-War almost popular among them.

This sentiment, however, is not expressed as it is understood. In the present form it represents little more than a puff of wind blowing against that menacing juggernaut, the War machine.

If the railroad men are free men of their strategic power to prevent War (and are deliberately kept unaware) the same cannot be said of the power that be. In all War preparations, the authorities know, the "loyalty" of transportation workers is almost as essential as that of the armed forces.

Railroad labor is therefore surrounded the most of special attention as to given to government employees. Especially in place upon its possibility and long-term, and pension and other provisions are made to insure them. Legislation in present railroad strikes is a first concern of any foreign government.

Ordinary perhaps of common War preparations in the social construction given by the recent Congress to both railroad pension and anti-strike legislation—particularly when this is placed in the setting of big navy and other War plans and the whole U.S.A. trend in organizing national life almost on a War footing, in conjunction with an aggressive foreign policy.

In many countries, even before they have reached the Pacific stage, railroad strikes are forbidden by law, just as are strikes of government employees. In the United States that point has not yet been reached, but legislation

has long been on the books which in practice has the same effect. The Railroad Labor Act has established a procedure that virtually eliminates the possibility of any but "orderly" strikes.

What Congress Did

The anti-strike legislation of the War was still further strengthened by the bill amendments adopted by the last Congress, and passed by the president. Opponents of these amendments emphasized that they were designed to prevent strikes that still were possible under the act. In regard to pensions, railroad workers, are now placed on a similar footing to government employees. In place of the old and unimpaired company pensions, to which workers did not contribute, a government-controlled pension plan has been enacted, the expenses of which are to be shared by the workers and the companies. Control of pensions gave the corporation a whip which frequently used to discipline, and limit railroad strikes, the whip has now been placed in the hands of the government.

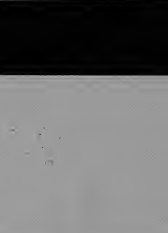
When the next War commences, possibly before the railroads will almost certainly be taken over by the government, as happened during the last War. The government's railroad "Crisis" Fund, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, has long been an advocate of government operation. If not successful, and he frequently says that this is what the future holds in store. To keep railroad labor in line and on the job during wartime is too important a task for the government to leave to chance in other hands.

Out of the wage earned to rail labor to win its compliance with the last world slaughter was "union recognition." Under government administration, union membership was swelled as never before. But the wage pay effect of increased living cost did not keep long before.

One rail labor had been prevented from "taking advantage" of War conditions. Wages were slashed again and the companies were given every encouragement to break the backs of the same as they did in the big shipmen's strike. Only the most strategically placed of the unions, the transportation Brotherhoods, were tolerated or encouraged any more, and company attention was thrown like an extinguisher not over as many other groups of rail labor as possible.

The ground is already being cleared for similar maneuvers to ensure rail labor discipline in the next War. The above-mentioned amendments to the Railroad Labor Act not only strengthen anti-strike and anti-strike features of the act, but they include more strongly worded clauses against company action than before.

How these changes will be applied in practice remains to be seen, of course. The wording of the original act did practically nothing to check an unbridled growth of company



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How these changes will be applied in practice remains to be seen, of course. The wording of the original act did practically nothing to check an unbridled growth of company

unions, and company action in industry generally has flourished as never before under the Taft-Hartley Act.

But too obviously "best" unions are a weak reed upon which to lean in time of actual trouble, as many employers have found to their cost. The closer the War clouds draw, the more willing the government is likely to be to employ trade union leaders as its lieutenants and "morale" men, just as during the last War—and rail labor will receive this attention sooner than almost any other group of workers.

Railroaders in Action

When German labor defied the Kapp "putsch," the railroad men's refusal to carry the troops and maintain of monarchist reaction ended the day. When British labor, with its "Council of Action" elected, the War plans of British imperialism against the workers.

BREEDING FASCISTS DOWN SOUTH

By JAMES M. SHIELDS

Author of "Just Plain Common"

The writer of the article in *Significance*, *Principles of Elementary Schools in Western States, N. C.*, and former president of North Carolina Elementary School Principals Association.

In my book, "Just Plain Common," an attempt was made to picture a typical industrial city of the South and the attitude held by various groups toward public education. Public schools were shown to be mere machines for propagating conformity to the existing social-economic system. Any efforts on the part of educators to use them for other purposes were quickly ground under the machinery of the state.

Since the writing of the book, developments throughout the South, and especially in North Carolina, have accentuated this situation greatly. The very growth of the Fascist control of the public schools has become a reality. Its legislative enactment, the schools of North Carolina are now uniformly operated on a starvation budget reduced from a 5 percent, and the school administration by a politically expedient state Commission. All schools have reduced their curriculum to courses featuring only the three R's. Furthermore, the national harvest, through their Fascist backbone in the legislature, have made it almost impossible for any community to impose new laws for the purpose of supplementing this meager school program.

Southern Pension Schools

During the present year this system is rapidly eliminating any freedom in the choice of curricula, textbooks and program. All schools must conform to a set, strict, conservative pattern. The wealthy send their children to private schools, but the poor must depend on these "pension schools," as the public system is being called. It is easy to foresee the next steps—the forcing of mass worship of big business upon the coming generation. The careful selection of powerful textbooks, of teachers, all adapted to that end, the unlimited spread of propaganda in the form of Propaganda Weeks, the forcing of mass worship of big business upon the coming generation.

The death of the World War, earlier and earlier, standing shoulder to shoulder, would make a solid wall around the entire boundary of the United States.



Principal Administrators and Schoolholders of E. L. de Pons de Vismere & Company, one of the largest business concerns in the U. S. A.

Flag Days, patriotic demonstrations, more militaristic American Day exercises. Teachers, that when no other group in the past has been so susceptible to fascist control, a group now working at starvation wages, are gradually becoming aware of the danger, but as a group they are not yet ready to abandon the clinging hope that somehow, somewhere, somebody will and come to their aid. They are not yet ready to strike out for themselves against the common enemy.

Protest and Action

The South, with its traditional traditions, its race prejudices, its inherent distrust of class movements, its biting distrust with Fascism. The schools are definitely being used to breed the next generation of the fascist state.

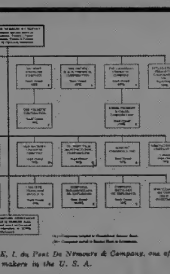
Are there enough patriotic individuals and organizations effectively to stem the tide by protest and action? I wonder!

What does it cost to kill a man in a modern War?

If all the workers of the U. S. were employed at N. E. code figure (40 cents an hour, 40 hours a week, in the "best" code) it would take them just about 10 years to earn enough to pay for the last War.

Cost of the World War	
Per day	\$10,000,000.00
Per hour	1,000,000.00
Per minute	100,000.00
Per second	2,000.00

The death of the World War, earlier and earlier, standing shoulder to shoulder, would make a solid wall around the entire boundary of the United States.



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WORLD WAR

On the 20th Anniversary of the World War...

Have you ever stopped over your daily newspaper and counted the columns of space devoted to War, Fascism, strikes, terror, etc.?

Well, we just did it.

And what do we find right on the front page?

HITLER'S STORM TROOPS TO BE DISARMED

2 SECURITY PACTS SOUGHT BY FRENCH

GAS BALKS RIOTERS ON JERSEY FARM

NAZI LEADER HERE DEFENDS DRILLING

DOLFUSS WIDENS HIS CABINET POWER

HITLER REPORTED TO PLAN

TRIP ON BATTLESHIP

We counted almost four solid pages devoted to War, Fascism, strikes, terror, etc., in a single issue of a daily newspaper picked at random from our desk.

We are now living in the most turbulent and important period of human history. Those of us who are conscious of our obligations to ourselves, our families, our class—those of us who are mentally alert—are fighting against the twin evils of capitalism, imperialist War and Fascism. Fighting for a new and better world.

Are you helping in this fight?

Are you helping to educate and organize your fellow workers, friends and neighbors in this struggle?

You can best do it by getting them to join a movement which is world wide in scope, the American League Against War and Fascism.

You can best do THAT by getting them to subscribe to FIGHT.

FIGHT Against War and Fascism, 112 East 19th Street, New York, N. Y.

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HERR HITLER

in another orgy of blood tries to solve his problems. Things are not so easy for him.

We want to make it still harder for him and for the budding Fascism and Fascist organizations in the United States.

That's why the

SECOND U. S. CONGRESS AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM

SEPTEMBER 28, 29 and 30, 1934

CHICAGO, ILL.

must be a powerful, organized body against all the forces making for imperialist War and Fascism.

Popularize the Congress. Speak before every organization and group. Get them to endorse the Congress. Get them to elect delegates.

Order copies of the Congress Call. The price is \$4.00 per 1000; \$2.25 for 500; \$1.00 for 250; 50c for 100 or less.

The drawing on the center page of this issue of FIGHT is available in poster form. The poster is larger than it is in the magazine, with space for advertising your local affairs. It is sold in quantities at a very low price. Order your posters now and help popularize the Congress.

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